

WESTERN RTAC TRAUMA TRANSFER GUIDELINES

- Do not delay transport for completion of radiology studies
- Do not delay transport waiting for results of radiology or laboratory studies
- All patients transported for trauma evaluation and definitive treatment should be transported with full spinal immobilization in place
- Measures should be taken to secure the airway as needed
- Large-bore IV access should be initiated
- It may be appropriate for the injured patient to undergo operative control of ongoing hemorrhage prior to transfer if a qualified surgeon and operating room resources are promptly available at the referring hospital

If your patient displays any of the following and management of the condition is beyond the capabilities of your facility, initiate transport immediately

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Head Injury:

Penetrating injury or open fracture
Depressed skull fracture
GCS <14 or GCS deterioration
Lateralizing signs

Spinal Cord Injury:

Major vertebral injury
Spinal cord injury

CHEST

Major chest wall injury or pulmonary contusion
Wide mediastinum or other signs suggesting great vessel injury
Cardiac injury
Patients who may require prolonged ventilation

PELVIS/ABDOMEN

Unstable pelvic ring disruption
Pelvic fracture with shock or other evidence of continuing hemorrhage
Open pelvic injury
Solid organ injury

MAJOR EXTREMITY INJURIES

Fracture/dislocation with loss of distal pulses
Open long-bone fractures
Extremity ischemia

MULTIPLE-SYSTEM INJURY

Head injury combined with face, chest, abdominal or pelvic injury
Burns with associated injuries
Multiple long-bone fractures
Injury to more than two body regions

COMORBID FACTORS

Age <6 years or >55 years
Cardiac or respiratory disease
Insulin-dependent diabetes, morbid obesity
Pregnancy
Immunosuppression

SECONDARY DETERIORATION (LATE SEQUELAE)

Mechanical ventilation required
Sepsis
Major tissue necrosis
Single or multiple organ system failure (deterioration in central nervous, cardiac, pulmonary, hepatic, renal, or coagulation systems)